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In Memoriam.

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With kind regards of
Mrs S. Oakley Van der Poel

Memorial

of

Samuel Oakley Vander Poel,

A.M., M.D., LL.D.

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GIFT
C.H.Butler
DEC 20 1912

THE MANHATTAN PRESS, 18 ANN ST., N Y.

"Them which sleep in Jesus, shall God bring with Him."

I.

Asleep in Jesus! blessed sleep!
From which none ever wakes to weep;
A calm and undisturb'd repose,
Unbroken by the last of foes.

II.

Asleep in Jesus! O, how sweet
To be for such a slumber meet;
With holy confidence to sing
That death has lost its painful sting!

III.

Asleep in Jesus! peaceful rest!
Whose waking is supremely blest;
No fear, no woe shall dim that hour
That manifests the Saviour's power.

IV.

Asleep in Jesus! O, for me
May such a blissful refuge be!
Securely shall my ashes lie,
Waiting the summons from on high.

V.

Asleep in Jesus! far from thee
Thy kindred in their graves may be;
But there is still a blessèd sleep
From which none ever wakes to weep.

FUNERAL ADDRESS.

By the Rev. Dr. Edward B. Coe,

Pastor of the Collegiate Church, Fifth Ave. and 48th St., New York.

The event which has brought us together here is so startling and sad that one verse out of the ancient Scriptures has been almost constantly in my thoughts since the tidings first came to me: "I was dumb, I opened not my mouth because *Thou* didst it." The Psalmist had been passing through a terrible experience of trial and suffering, and this was his confession. He had borne it, he had borne it in silence, because he had seen that it was the act of God.

I know of no better lesson for the present hour. We cannot explain such a stroke of God's providence as this. It does not seem as if a life so brave and strong and useful ought to have been so suddenly cut off. There are not many such lives, and the world needs them all. It does not seem right that when so many other homes are untouched by sorrow, the shadow of death should have fallen again so soon on this. And the only answer to our complaint is, "It is the Lord's doing: His ways are not as our ways, nor His thoughts as our thoughts. Be still, and know that He is God: there is no searching of His wisdom, and no limit to His love."

It is very hard, even now, to realize that death has actually taken from us the dear friend for whom we are all mourning to-day. He was always so thoroughly *alive*, and it seems but yesterday that his strong and stimulating presence was still with us. He was, himself, not without premonitions that the end of earthly things was drawing near, but that it was *so* near he

probably did not suspect, and we still less suspected it. And it does not seem possible that we are to see his face and hear his voice and clasp his hand no more. But in a true and high sense his presence is still with us. Death has not effaced, and cannot soon efface, the impression made by his strong personality on all who knew him. And those who knew him best must feel as if some strange mist had settled on their sight, hiding but not removing him from them. It cannot be that he is gone, when he is so vividly present to our thoughts. And this makes any words of eulogy impossible. I feel as if he would hear them and would be offended by them. Few men, I think, have understood themselves better than he understood himself. He knew what he was aiming at and what he had been able to accomplish; and his own wish, I am sure, would be that his life should speak for him. Free as his mind was from illusions, he does not need praise, and would have been impatient of it; secure of the good opinion, which no true man despises, of those among whom he lived and for whom he labored. But what his life was is known to all who are here this afternoon, to testify by their presence their esteem and their affection. It is needless to speak of the offices he filled, the honors he won, the public and private services he rendered. They were all incidental to his work. He took them up as he went on, because they came in his way, but they added nothing to him. The man himself was more than the positions which he held or the good work which he accomplished in them. A man of so much force of mind and character, of such high purpose and such persevering diligence, would have made a deep impression on the world, whatever sphere of labor he might have chosen. He could not have been an ordinary man, and it is not to be wondered at, that in the profession which he adorned and which honored and confided in him, his success was so great, his standing so high, and the range of his view and of his interest so wide. Not as a practicing physician only, but as a teacher, organizer, administrator, writer, and counsellor—you know how varied, broad, beneficent his activity was. You know what public institutions and associations, what departments of civic administration and of social reform, show the fruit of his thought and labor; how all questions of practical philanthropy appealed to him; and how he stood

in sympathetic and helpful relations, esteemed for the soundness of his opinions as well as the breadth of his research and the earnestness of his zeal, with those who, in other lands as well as in our own, are planning and laboring for the welfare of mankind.

But I touch upon all this only because we cannot but recognize, as we here speak of him to one another, the great and constant and abiding value of the work which he accomplished in his busy and useful life. His own view of it would, I think, have been that God gave him his talents and his opportunities and that it was his simple duty to employ them to the utmost. Any review of his public and professional career, however minute it might be made (and I do not here attempt it), would have little significance, if out of it there did not rise the figure of a strong, brave, earnest, high-minded, conscientious, God-fearing *man*. It is such a man whom we have delighted to know, and whom we love to remember, whose look inspired respect and confidence, whose friendship was a privilege and an incentive, whose example was an inspiration. Not the clearness and vigor of his mind, so much as the nobleness and purity of his character, are what we chiefly recall and dwell upon, as he goes forth from us into the unseen world.

It does not very greatly matter what any man *does*, but it matters very greatly what he *is*. It matters very greatly whether to have known him has made us worse or better, more selfish or more in earnest to do our duty, more fond of our own ease or more helpful to our fellow men, more cynical or more generous in our temper, more intent upon the present life or more continually mindful that the eye of God is on us and that we are set in a stewardship to Him. This house is full of sacred memories of a man who made no secret, as he made no boast, of his Christian faith and principle; who habitually recognized his obligations to God, his dependence upon Him, and his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. If he never entered into the fellowship of the Christian church—deterred from this, in part at least, by his own high standard of what a Christian life should be—it was his constant and prayerful endeavor, with God's help, to live such a life. No officer of the church could be more regular, attentive, devout, than he was, in his attendance upon public worship, and his presence in his place

in the house of God was a stimulus and an encouragement to the preacher of that gospel of the divine grace, to which he delighted to listen.

I cannot say—I would not if I could—what conflicts of thought and feeling may have been passed through by a mind so honest and so searching, and by a character so positive as his. I only know that one does not come without the grace of God to a firm control of the passions that are in us all, and to a clear and lofty loyalty to duty. It was not merely an innate sweetness of disposition which made him charitable in his judgments and forbearing in his treatment of others. It was not merely a native refinement which kept him pure, or a native nobility of soul which made him true. He had what the Psalmist calls "the heritage of those that fear Thy name," and the principles of the Gospel, wrought into his life, made that life what it was. Let me not seem to be speaking of it as if it were faultless or of his character as if it were perfect. His own lips would rebuke me if I did so. I am speaking of a strong, true, noble man, whom I knew and honored and loved, whose example may in many ways lead us all, whose death has made the world poorer. And when I consider the high religious purpose which he showed, the reverence for spiritual things which he exhibited, the love of that which is pure and right and true which he made manifest, I cannot help seeing in it all the fruit of those Christian influences which were acting upon him through all his life. And the lesson of his life, as it comes to me, as it may well come to us all, is: "Be true, be honest, be faithful, be followers of Christ." He could have had, I am sure, no greater happiness than to know that this would be the impression of his life, upon those who should recall it after he was gone. If he valued anything in this world it was character, and the memory of his own character is the best legacy that he has left. He has left it to us all for our admiration and encouragement. To those who mourn his death most bitterly he has left it for their unspeakable consolation. He has passed from them, for a little, into that world where earthly successes count for nothing and where character counts for everything. And who can doubt that the spirit which was here so eager and so earnest in its activity has gone to a sphere of still grander and intenser life, of still higher and holier

service? We often look on death as the enemy of life. The death of such a man, in the fulness of his mental and moral energy, is a pledge and prophecy of immortality. A little mountain-rill may be dried up by the summer sun, but a broad and deep river can be lost only in the broader and deeper ocean.

It is then with thoughts that look upward and forward, as well as backward, that we stand here beside that which is mortal of one who has put on immortality. Let us not say farewell to him, as if he were forever gone from us. Let us rather think and speak of the hour when, if we too are Christ's, we shall meet him again. It was, on earth, his beautiful and sacred office to heal the sick, to soothe and ease the last hours of the dying. Almost in a moment he has passed beyond the need of all such ministries to the land where there is no weeping or pain. We thank God for the good which he was enabled to do here below, and for the good which he will still continue to do as long as his memory lives and his influence lasts, and we thank God also for our assurance that there has been granted to him the fulfillment of the promise, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give to thee a crown of life." So in faith and hope we lay him to rest.

Remarks by REV. J. R. DUNYEE,

Published in *The Christian Intelligencer.*

SAMUEL OAKLEY VANDER POEL, M.D , LL.D.

Born at Kinderhook, N. Y., February 22d, 1824. Died at Washington, D. C., March 12th, 1886.

In the death of Dr. Vander Poel the State has lost an honored citizen, the medical profession a distinguished member, and the Reformed Dutch Church a friend whose worth cannot be measured by ordinary standards.

The secular newspapers have told in outline the story of his public and professional life of service, but from the very nature of the man have omitted any reference to his religious character. Yet those who knew him well realized that he was essentially a religious man. They saw exemplified in him those principles which are the basis of Christianity. He was a noble type of self contained manhood.

God had richly endowed him with power, and in the knowledge of this he stood up before all the world to do his appointed work. No matter how great the task might be, if it came within the bounds of his duty it was carried through. He never drew back because of grave responsibilities and possible failure. He lived up to the principle that

> "because right is right, to follow right
> Were wisdom in the scorn of consequence."

This sense of endowment from God, and its correlative of responsibility to God, seemed paramount in Dr. Vander Poel. Smaller men would have become proportionately egotistical, but this very self-containment made him supremely unselfish.

His acceptance of high and difficult positions from the Government was based on this principle, and his successful conduct of every office of trust was largely due to it. An illustration of this was shown in his election

to the position of President of the N. Y. Medical Society a few years ago. He accepted the office because it involved a principle. For the issue was an important one, and he was recognized as the one in whom it centered. On his election depended the repeal of an unrighteous law. The members of the society, which meant all the old school practitioners, were bound by oath to have no professional intercourse with physicians who differed from them. If a man were apparently dying, and his homœopathic attendant felt that the only hope for life lay in the possible treatment a physician of the old school might suggest, that physician, without violating his pledge, could not consult with the other as to the case. Nor were such contingencies unusual. Dr. Vander Poel not only saw the wrong in this restriction, but felt called upon to remove it. On this issue he fought his way against powerful and deep rooted prejudice to office. Others, in such a contest would have grown bitter, he never changed his kind feelings toward his antagonistic brethren.

His sense of duty in small things, as well as great, was remarkable. I visited at his home on Staten Island when he was Health Officer of the Port of New York. He invited me to go with him by boat to the fever hospital, a long distance away on the lower bay. The day was damp and raw and the doctor was suffering from a throat trouble. He had been there the day before, and learning that there was no special call for him, I asked whether under the circumstances his assistant ought not to take his place. The sense of his reply was, "I am responsible for the well being of those people and this visit is in the line of duty." I doubt if he ever failed to respond cheerfully to any professional call. As a family physician he never spared himself.

And his benevolence was equally unselfish. His generous gifts to the Church and her educational interests tell to us all a lesson of stewardship. But I am sure that they are but a small proportion of the wealth he gave and help he afforded to causes that represent Christ in the world.

It was largely through his gifts and efforts that the Charity Organization Society of New York was established and maintained, and it is but one of many of the mediums for doing good he supported.

More than once have I taken him at his word and asked him to visit poor sick folk, which he not only did but also supplied the means for obtaining necessities that they lacked. He brought to bear in their behalf just as much skill and patience as though the sufferers were millionaires. I do not know his Albany record, and it was there the greater portion of his life was spent, but doubt not that if the history of the professional life of Dr. Vander Poel is ever written its longest and brightest page will tell of service rendered to those of whom the Great Physician spoke when He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me."

Such a man is a gentleman, and Dr. Vander Poel was this through and through. He came of an honored line and was reasonably proud of his good old Dutch name and pure descent. The aristocracy of intellect, of heart, and of blood, all found in him a true type. This very union of traits made him an unassuming man. Not only so, it led to that fine courtesy shown to every-one, however circumstanced. To see the life of Dr. Vander Poel was to understand the meaning of *noblesse oblige*. The greatness of his gentleness made him very lovable. Men, women and children as they met him were drawn to him. The instinct of my little girl made her run to him as soon as he came within the room. In no man I have ever known has this characteristic shone out more brightly. Only those privileged to enter his home realized the strength and beauty of his influence there.

Let me name one other trait that marked Dr. Vander Poel. He was pre-eminently a reverent man. The Fifth Commandment in all its wide scope was a law of his life. Drs. Clark and Coe, his pastors in Albany and New York, must have valued the power of his example as a worshipper of God in the Church. And he honored God in every phase of life. I have seen him under different circumstances, but in every place could say "that man honors God." And because of their office, as well as for their manhood, he honored clergymen. He said to me once, "You have a high position to fill as a minister of Christ." His filial reverence for his mother is for me a cherished memory. As I recall her she was a beautiful old lady, dwelling under her son's roof. His deference, his constant anticipation of her wishes

and needs, made her seem like a very queen in that home. After her death he said to me, "Was she not a beautiful type of a gentlewoman?" So she had in him a true mother's reward. I believe they now walk together in the light of God.

We will see him no more here. My own home seems very lonely as I try to realize it. But, thinking of him and his completed service, say:

"On God and godlike men we build our trust."

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, CLIFTON, S. I.

Remarks made by the REV. DR. ECCLESTON,

At morning service, Sunday, March 14, 1886.

I should be very ungrateful as a man, and remiss in my duty as the minister of this society, if I failed to express the sorrow that fills many hearts at the tidings of the sudden and unexpected death of Dr. Samuel Oakley Vander Poel.

Twenty years ago his skill and affectionate attention saved my life from premature extinction, and rescued me from a state of nervous misery worse than death. And thousands of others, all over this state, owe their health and the prolongation of their lives to the wonderful skill of this good physician.

Called to fill high and responsible public offices, his official integrity was as marked as his ability. Dishonest men and political tricksters did not like him—no breath of calumny could fasten upon him. He was a man possessed of that rare combination: a strong masculine intellect with a tender feminine heart. He was a man to lean upon in trouble and difficulties, and no one ever leaned upon him in vain.

Dr. Vander Poel was not attached formally to this church, but his catholic soul sympathized with all churches in which the Master's work was performed, and he loved to join with us here, as he often did, in services of prayer and praise.

Our sympathy and prayers go forth to-day for the widow, and daughter, and for the worthy sons who will perpetuate the name and rival the professional fame of the beloved Father, Physician and Christian.

"And I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."

MEMOIR OF

SAMUEL OAKLEY VANDER POEL, A.M., M.D., LL.D.,

OF NEW YORK.

By A. Vander Veer, M. D., Albany, N. Y.

Read before the New York Academy of Medicine, April 15, 1886.

It has been well said that "It is not an unworthy task for the living to record the merits of the illustrious dead." Exalted virtues of character attracting admiration or endearment; noble heroism in moments of trial; superior intellectual endowment and cultivation; great practical success; and, above all, that spirit of comprehensive benevolence which ignores self in the pursuit of the advantage and comfort of others; such traits as these should not be suffered to die with the mortal part of man's nature. It is no reflection upon other learned callings to assert that in none of them is found a larger share of true and ostentatious private worth; of sound and extensive attainments in literature and science; of more devoted and self-sacrificing labors of love, than in the sublime Profession of Physic.

Columbia county, in this State, has been the birthplace of many men, who, in after years, have become prominent in their respective pursuits. Their careers have been amongst the ablest of our jurists, statesmen and professional workers. February 22, 1824, was born at Kinderhook, Samuel Oakley Vander Poel, whose name was destined to rank among the greatest and best of the leaders in the profession of medicine. His parents belonged to the most intelligent families of this brain-producing country and shaped with clearness of purpose the future of their son in a manner certain to bring forth the best returns. His father was a man of great prominence in his profession—that of medicine—and gave an example of industry and earnest work that was ever afterward closely followed by his watchful and painstaking son and student.

Dr. S. Oakley Vander Poel received his literary education at the Kinderhook Academy and the University of New York at a time when the venerable and scholarly Theodore Frelinghuysen was chancellor of the latter institution, being graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1842 and receiving his Master's Degree in 1845. Upon his graduation he returned to begin the study of medicine with his father, and, after a thorough course, graduated at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in the spring of 1845. For the next two years he was associated with his father. In the fall of 1847 he went to Paris to pursue his studies, but, finding the excitement of the time unpropitious to his purpose, traveled through the south of France and Italy, witnessing the various acts of the drama then exciting all Europe. Immediately after the bloody days of June he returned to the French capital and remained for a considerable period.

Dr. Vander Poel settled in Albany in the spring of 1850, at a time when there were giants in the profession there and already occupying the medical territory in so masterly a manner as to command the good will and confidence of the entire community. With such men as Alden, March, Thomas Hun, the MacNaughtons, Wendell, Armsby, Boyd Sr., Cogswell, the Staatses, Bigelow Sr., Quackenbush, and many others we might mention, in the full tide of vigorous and successful practice, it was no easy task for a young man to enter the arena and gain a foothold. But Dr. Vander Poel had an equipment of the best, and when the hour of trial came, as come it must to us all, he was not found wanting and we witness the record of his success in a steadily increasing parctice and a well developed respect springing up in the minds of his older associates, until, as time passed, we see him, in point of position and amount of professional work and income, standing as a peer of the best. He won his spurs as all honest-hearted knights must, and in wearing them maintained the dignity of his calling in a way worthy of our closest imitation. He was no idler and had little respect for the medical drone. He welcomed worth and professional manhood and was ever ready to give them recognition. He retained the respect and confidence of his patients to a wonderful degree and, while it is true that outside this circle, the memory of him will grow less and less, yet so closely has

his life been linked with the growth of families in Albany, that present and future generations will honor him in their affections and speak in love of the great good he did in caring for their dear ones in the past. So long as memory holds sway, the association of ideas will, from time to time, bring happy and pleasant recollections of his kindly care and watchfulness over them.

It was not alone in his profession that he presented the strong man of skill and science. Socially he was the bright and brilliant star of many an intellectual gathering and, if we are permitted for a moment to lift the family curtain and view the domestic group, a more affectionate husband, a more devoted father, an example of greater christian goodness is seldom seen. The pride of his heart, the comfort of his weary hours of practice, his future hope in life were the dear ones of his family circle. And it may be said that rarely has a father been better rewarded in seeing his children develop as he would have them than Dr. Vander Poel.

There have been men in our ranks who, in dying, have left behind them records of greater fame in the writing of books, in their contributions to medical journals, and, perhaps, in their holding of public positions, but few, very few, have shown greater energy in their life work than the subject of this imperfect memoir. In 1851 he married Gertrude, daughter of Peter Wendell, M. D., then Chancellor of the Regents of the University and one of the most prominent physicians of his day, occupying a high social position, and is survived by his wife and four children: Dr. S. Oakley Vander Poel, Jr., Herman W. Vander Poel, and Dr. John Vander Poel, and Miss Gertrude Vander Poel.

Dr. Vander Poel became a member of the Medical Society of the County of Albany in 1851, was elected Vice-President in 1858, again in 1859, and President in 1860 and also in 1861 (an unusual honor for any member to be elected twice to these positions in this society), his anniversary address on each occasion being sent, on motion of the Society, as a contribution to the State Society. May 10, 1881, he was appointed chairman of the committee on the celebration of the semi-centennial in the practice of Dr. Thomas Hun, from which he resigned on account of his

removal from Albany. His attendance upon the meetings of the societies with which he was connected was always faithful and his participation active. His contributions and discussions were of wide range, showing much study and research. From 1856 to 1860 he was a delegate to the State Medical Society, and in the latter year became a permanent member. In 1870 he was elected president of that body, the highest recognition in the power of his professional brethren to bestow.

Dr. Vander Poel was appointed attending physician to the Albany Hospital in 1865, and consulting physician to the same in 1876. When St. Peter's Hospital was established, in 1869, he was appointed attending physician and consulting physician to the same on his removal to New York. He was attending physician at the Albany Orphan Asylum for many years, and had a like relationship with many other similar institutions of the city.

In 1867 Dr. Vander Poel was appointed to the Chair of General Pathology and Clinical Medicine in the Albany Medical College, which he held for three years, receiving the honorary degree of M. D. from the college during that time. About the same time he was appointed a manager of the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica.

In February, 1872, Gov. Hoffman appointed him to the important position of Health Officer of the Port of New York, where he discharged the manifold duties of the office with the highest credit to himself and the State until 1880, when, in the round of political change, his successor was appointed. There are few, if any, appointments that fall to the lot of members of the medical fraternity so filled with anxiety and care as that of Health Officer of the Port of New York. To perform the duties honestly, to protect at all times the people from contagious diseases and yet not do violence or injury to the commercial interests at stake, is a problem often difficult to solve; and yet so well did Dr. Vander Poel discharge this arduous task, that there went up from this great city to the Governor of the State, petition after petition, from the many business firms here requesting his retention. And at last his displacement was brought about only by the very strongest of political combinations, in all of which Dr. Vander Poel would not in any way allow himself to become a party.

In January, 1876, he was elected to the Chair of Theory and Practice and Clinical Medicine in the Albany Medical College, and continued his lectures while yet performing his duties as Health Officer. When relieved of the latter appointment, and after spending a year in Europe, he returned to his adopted city in the fall of 1881 and began a consultation practice only.

His active and vigorous mind for the first time now met with sorrowing reflections. Many of his old associates in the profession had passed away, and, of those I have mentioned, but two remained. In the meetings of the County Society he mingled with new faces, those remaining of the number when he joined being scarcely more than half a dozen.

In a like manner his families had undergone the vicissitudes of life. Death had been busy among the older ones and gathered many to their fathers. Youths had become men and women, and the lapse of time presented old friends, patients aud acquaintances in the light of strangers. I well remember a conversation—one of many—I had with him upon this panoramic change in the current of human life, in which he dwelt at length upon the great number of vacancies that had occurred among the pew holders in his church, where he delighted to go, and was a punctual and regular attendant. These considerations had much to do with the removal of his home, I believe, and his coming to this great city to dwell in the midst of new friends mingled with a few old ones, in the winter of 1882.

At this time, when leaving Albany, he was made Emeritus Professor of the Theory and Practice and Clinical Medicine in the Medical College, a position which he always spoke of with feelings of pride. To receive this recognition from his old associates in the Faculty was to him a great pleasure.

In 1883 he was elected Professor of Public Hygiene in the Medical Department of the University of New York, from which institution he had received the degree of Doctor of Laws in 1877. He was a delegate from the N. Y. State Medical Society to the International Medical Congress at Copenhagen, Denmark, August, 1884; member of the Medical Society of the County of New York, and its worthy president but two years ago; member of the Medical and Surgical Society of New York; member of the New York Academy of Medicine; and member of the Civil Service

Examining Board for applicants seeking appointment in the Insane Asylums of the State. You that are present here, though, are more familliar than myself with the good work he did in assisting to formulate the Constitution for the Charity Organization Society. I am told that he was an earnest worker there and that much sorrow has been expressed in the loss the Society has met with in his death.

In 1857 Governor King appointed him Surgeon General of the State. In 1861 he was again invited to this office by Governor Morgan. As has been said the position in this case was not one of mere empty honor. The inauguration of the war, shortly after his term began, imposed duties and responsibilities far more arduous, delicate, and important than had ever before devolved upon that or any similar position in the country. It became necessary, without the guide of precedent or experience, to improvise a vast and systematic bureau, meeting every requirement attaching to the complete medical organization of a great force. There were many militia regiments to be promptly provided with medical supplies and instruments as they hurried to the field. There were numerous volunteer regiments rapidly assembling, requiring immediate care for their sick and attention to their permanent organization. There were hundreds of surgeons and assistants coming from every section of the state, representing every grade of the profession, whose qualifications were to be examined and decided. New regiments were uninterruptedly organized, and old regiments demanded constant attention, even after they had passed into the service of the United States, in order that a competent staff might be maintained. This last duty was made peculiarly harrassing and exacting by the crude system of the General Government during the first two years of the war. In many cases the medical officers no sooner became conversant with their duties than the novelty and romance vanished, their resignations were offered and accepted, and the Surgeon General required to fill the vacancies with such promptitude that the public service should suffer no detriment. The magnitude of the responsibility and the severity of the labor thus imposed may be judged from the fact that there were between six and seven hundred positions upon the medical staff to be kept filled with capable officers.

A still more significant testimony is embodied in the statement, that, at one time, the Surgeon-General was called upon to make over five hundred appointments in the space of six weeks. Nor was this all; he was obliged to establish and perfect a system of promotion, which should be just without favoritism, and confer reward without impairing the efficiency of the service. His patronage was immense. With hundreds of officers in his department, upon whose respective merits none but himself could decide, it required a nice sense of honor and a wise discrimination to distribute the appointments in such a way that the good of the general service might be harmonized with a recognition of just personal claims. Nothing could put the professional acquirements and the executive talent of a man to a severer test than these varied, complicated and difficult duties; and it is but to repeat the judgment of the highest authorities to say that they were performed by Dr. Vander Poel with signal ability. His successful administration elicted the official approval of both the Secretary of War and the Governor of the State and constitutes an important chapter in the association of New York with the great contest.

As a physician Dr. Vander Poel was learned in theory and skillful in practice. He was firm in his friendship toward the city of Albany from the time he became a resident there. He was faithful at all times in his labors and as an active professor seldom, if ever, allowed a lecture hour to go by without its being filled. He was loyal to the college in every way, always working for its interest, and either by speech or act endeavoring to advance its welfare and usefulness. Through association he was known to be a man of great strength of character, of much learning, of broad views in medicine, an earnest pathologist, a good diagnostician, a successful practitioner in his chosen profession. He won and retained the love and admiration of the students who composed the various classes that it was his pleasure to teach, and there are many who will dry the moistened eye as they speak of his death.

His life was never an idle one; he gave much time and thought to his clinical instruction and in all ways sought to promote the welfare of students and institutions with which he was associated. In truth it may be said he was a most worthy and successful teacher of medicine.

The following list comprises the greatest number of his medico-literary and scientific essays:

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ALBANY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Bloodletting in Inflammatory Diseases.
Report of Case of Cancer of the Ovaries.
Report of Case of Encephaloid Cancer.
A Case of Prolapsus Uteri.
Paper on Puerperal Eclampsia.
Paper on Tænia Lata.
Paper on the Ulceration of the Crevix Uteri.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

BLEEDING in Cerebral Diseases, 1861.
ON THE USE of Mercurials in Acute Pericarditis, 1861.
SUGGESTIONS Relative to the Pathology of Pneumonia, 1865.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH of the late Dr. Wm. Bay, of Albany, 1866.
PROGRESSIVE Locomotor Ataxy, 1866.
ON THE TRANSMISSIBILITY of Yellow Fever and Cholera in their Relation to Quarantine, 1874.
THE CONDITION of the Tuberculosis Question. 1882.
HIGH HOUSES, 1884.
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THE RELATION OF HYGIENE to the Medical Profession and to the General Public. Alumni Lecture before Alumni Association of Albany Medical College, March, 1886.
INTRODUCTORY LECTURE to the Course of 1867, Albany Medical College.
ADDRESS before the Graduating Class of the Albany Medical College, 1881.

Thus we see that he was zealous in his professional work at all times in life; his interest never faltered, he was ever on the alert and when progress was made by any of the great workers in medicine, he hastened to avail himself of it for the benefit of his patients and associates. Much is often

said as to the personal impression made by a physician. Surely Dr. Vander Poel's genial presence was always welcome in the sick-room and contributed largely in the restoration of his patients to health.

It may be truly said that he was a man honored by his brethren in the profession, for his stability of character, his untiring devotion to the just principles of medical science, and his proper estimation of the honorable calling which constituted his life-work. With an extensive library, whose ample shelves were constantly enriched with the latest publications, both American and foreign, he kept fully abreast of the ripest thoughts and best achievements in medical science. To us in Albany, his death was peculiarly sad. But a few days before, he was with us in apparent good health, and delivered the Annual Alumni Lectures before the Alumni Association of the Albany Medical College, which received the highest praise from those who had the good fortune to be in attendance. He expressed himself at that time as feeling in better health than for many months previous, and at the home of his old and firm friend, the venerable Dr. Thos. Hun, was happy and jovial in his manner. When leaving the city he stated to several friends that he had not had so pleasant a time in the old "Dutch City" for many years. Therefore, I repeat that when the sad news of his death was received there was everywhere manifest the greatest surprise and sincere regret.

I am not sufficiently well acquainted with the facts of his last and final sickness to speak intelligently or as fully as is needed concerning it. Can only say that the immediate cause of death was believed to be an acute suppuritive nephritis grafted upon a cirrhotic condition of the kidneys.

His death is a loss to the profession and to the world at large.

He will be missed as one who attained a position given to but few of us in the walks of our profession.

UNIVERSITY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

WASHINGTON SQUARE.

NEW YORK, 3d MAY, 1886.

At a meeting of the Council, held at the Council Room, on the 3d day of May, 1886:

Chancellor Hall announced the death, on the 12th day of March, 1886, at Washington, D. C., of Samuel Oakley Vander Poel, M. D., LL. D., a Member of the Council.

Howard Crosby, D. D., LL. D., Ex-Chancellor, moved the following resolutions.

They were seconded by Rev. Alex. R. Thompson, D. D.

Charles Butler, LL. D., Vice-President in the chair, addressed the Council and called for a standing vote.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

"*Resolved*, That the following minute of Samuel Oakley Vander Poel, M. D., LL. D., be entered on the records of the Council, and communicated to the widow and family.

"Doctor Vander Poel's life belonged to the University. Born on the 22d day of February, 1824, at Kinderhook, New York, he entered the University at an early age, and graduated in the class of 1842, receiving the degree of A. B. The degree of LL. D. was given to him by the University in 1878. He became a member of the Council in 1875, and a Professor in the Department of Medicine in 1882, and filled each of these positions at the time of his death, on the 12th day of March, 1886.

"With one classmate, he was of the earliest class now represented in the Council by members chosen from the Alumni. These members, for his life with them for forty-four years, honored and loved him. The other members of the Council who knew him first in his mature years, learned later the same feelings, but with equal fervor. They united at his funeral rites in the same sincere regret for the loss of a friend.

"His life was a faithful performance of duty. From a long line of ancestors, passing from Holland to this country in Teunis Cornelius van der Poel, who was in Beverwyck in 1660 to 1687, and until the present generation remaining in the vicinity of Albany, he inherited the steadfast qualities which marked the founders of the State of New York, and led it to the Empire.

"By thorough education in the profession of Medicine in this country, where he received his degree of M. D. in 1845, and in Europe, he formed a character, and added attainments which led him to the highest honors of the profession. In it and in its Societies, as well as in the service of the state of his birth, he held public positions which are recorded in its history.

"In his later years he made this city his residence, and again entered the halls of his Alma Mater in honorable offices. As a physician he was learned and skillful. As a professor he was lucid and powerful. As an officer of the State he displayed broad views and great administrative ability. Among his personal friends and in his home, for his culture, his geniality, and his warm heart, he was beloved.

"In the Council, and in his service to the University, as in the world, he was the strong man and the faithful. Nobility of character and generous courage, sound knowledge and unfailing justice, were strong in him. His strength arose from the fear of God, and his hope in the life to come. He knew what was right. He loved the truth and he loved his fellow men, and his life was the attempt to act up to this faith.

"The Council do not make this record, with all the incidents of his companionship in the service of his Alma Mater fresh in memory, without yielding again to their deep sorrow for his loss, and uniting with his family and all others who mourn for him."

An extract from the minutes.

John Taylor Johnston,
President.

Wm. R. Martin,
Secretary.

Charles Butler,
Vice-President.

ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

ALBANY, N. Y., April 2, 1886.

At a special meeting of the Faculty of the Albany Medical College, called for the purpose of taking action upon the death of Dr. Samuel Oakley Vander Poel, Emeritus Professor of Pathology, Practice and Clinical Medicine in the College, and held Saturday, March 13, 1886, the following Memorial Minute offered by Professor Albert Vander Veer, was, on motion of Professor Samuel B. Ward, seconded by Professor Franklin Townsend, Jr., unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

"Scarcely a week has passed since it was our pride and pleasure to grasp the hand of him who has so suddenly been taken from us by the stern hand of death. Dr. S. Oakley Vander Poel had endeared himself to us all in many ways. He was firm in his friendship toward the city of his adoption, and to us as a Faculty he was a true associate. Seldom has there joined the teaching corps of this College a member who entered so earnestly into his work as he whom we now mourn as dead to us here on earth. He was faithful at all times in his labors while an active professor, and seldom allowed a lecture hour to go by without its being filled. He was loyal to the College in every way, always working for its interests and either by speech or act endeavoring to advance its welfare and usefulness.

"By intimate association we learned to know him as a man of great strength of character; of much learning; of broad view in medicine; an earnest pathologist; a good diagnostician; a successful practitioner in his chosen profession. He won and retained the love of the students who composed the various classes that it was his pleasure to teach, and there are many, very many of our graduates who will dry the moistened eye as they hear of his death, and in sorrow speak of his many noble virtues. His life was never an idle one; he gave much time and thought to his clinical instruction and always sought to advance and promote the welfare both of students and institutions with which he was associated. Truly may it be said that he was a most worthy and successful teacher of medicine, and

while in grief we obey the will of our Maker who has taken him from us while in the strength of mature manhood, yet to his bereaved family we would extend our sincere sympathy in their loss and remind them that in the study of the useful life he spent here on earth they will find great consolation, and that for comfort to their wounded hearts they must look to the same Saviour in whom he trusted.

"*Resolved*, That the foregoing be spread upon our books of minutes and that the Registrar be instructed to send a copy of our tribute to the afflicted widow and family and cause the same to be published in the daily papers.

"*Resolved*, That so far as possible we attend the funeral in a body."

WILLIS Y. TUCKER,

Registrar.

CHARITY ORGANIZATION SOCIETY

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

CENTRAL OFFICE, 21 UNIVERSITY PLACE, 15th March, 1886.

MRS. S. O. VANDER POEL.

DEAR MADAM: At a special meeting of our Central Council, held this morning, the following minute was unanimously adopted:

"In common with the community this Society has sustained a severe loss in the sudden death of its first president, DR. S. O. Vander Poel, which took place in Washington on the 12th inst. He was one of the citizens selected by the State Board of Charities to assist in organizing this Society, in formulating its constitution and laws, and in initiating its work.

"His interest in the principles of the Society was deep and intelligent, and he has been ever ready to promote its success and extension, as far as his means and time and strength would permit. He was its active president for the first three years of the Society's history, and until with failing health he found it necessary to relinquish the responsibilities of the office, remaining however upon its Central Council, and acting as its Vice-President during the present year up to the time of his death. His mature judgment, his varied experience, his conscientious performance of duty and his unvarying courtesy rendered him a valuable counsellor to this body, the members of which will long and deeply feel his loss.

"In view of this sad occurrence be it

"*Resolved*, That the above minute be entered upon the records of the Society; that a copy of it, with the earnest sympathy of the members of the Central Council, be communicated to the family of Dr. Vander Poel;

and that as a further mark of respect, a Committee be appointed by the President to attend his funeral."

Asking to be allowed to add to the above my own personal condolence and my own sense of personal bereavement in the loss of a valued friend,

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours Very Truly,

CHAS. D. KELLOG,
Organizing Sec'y.

THE MARITIME ASSOCIATION

OF THE PORT OF NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, March 13th, 1886.

MRS. DR. S. O. VANDER POEL.

MY DEAR MADAM: It is with deep pain that we have learned of the death of your honored husband, the late Dr. S. O. Vander Poel, and I beg to convey to you the assurance of the sincere condolence of this Association.

As representatives of the maritime interests of New York, his official acts, as Health Office of this port, came under our immediate observation.

Under his able management, there was inaugurated at the Quarantine a series of reforms, to the great advantage of ocean commerce at this port, and to the great satisfaction of our shipping community. Clothed with almost absolute powers, he exercised them with discretion, not only preserving this City from imported contagion, but bearing as lightly as possible upon our shipping.

The Association at large, embracing representatives of all branches of Commerce, before his retirement from the office, which for eight years he had graced, adopted resolutions expressive of their satisfaction, and they still cherish his memory among those who have been identified with the prosperity of New York.

I have taken the liberty to appoint a Committee to represent the Association at the funeral, and taking the opportunity to express my personal sympathy with you in your bereavement,

I remain, Dear Madam,

Sincerely Yours,

JNO. P. TOWNSEND,

President.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

NO. 301 MOTT STREET.

NEW YORK, April 26th, 1886.

MR. S. OAKLEY VANDER POEL, JR.,
38 East 49th Street.

SIR: At a meeting of this Board, held March 16th, the following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That in the death of Dr. Samuel Oakley Vander Poel, late Health Officer of the Port of New York, and for eight years an active member of the Board of Health of New York City, we recognize the loss of a patriotic citizen and eminent sanitarian, whose high personal character and devotion to the public service distinguished him as an officer of signal usefulness in his public career. While Health Officer of the Port, his cheerful and wise co-operation in the measures of this Department, during the important work of 1873–1880, and in the years when the epidemics of small-pox and yellow fever—already desolating other places—threatened but were warded off from this city, and later his discriminating and important service on the Tenement-House Commission, have added much to the great results of his distinguished life.

"*Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing resolution be forwarded to the family of the Deceased."

A true copy.

EMMONS CLARK,
Secretary.

LINCOLN SAFE DEPOSIT COMPANY.

At a specially called meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lincoln Safe Deposit Company, held at its Offices, 32–38 East 42d Street, in the City of New York, on Monday, March 15, 1886, the following resolutions were offered by Mr. Van Santvoord :

"*Resolved*, That the Board of Trustees of the Lincoln Safe Deposit Company, both as a Board and as individuals, feel a profound sense of sorrow at the death of Dr. S. O. Vander Poel, a Trustee of the Company. He was esteemed by all who knew him. He was a generous, attached and valued friend ; a gentleman eminent for strength and purity of character. He was distinguished in a marked degree for the faithful discharge of the obligations and duties imposed by a life of varied responsibilities. His professional attainments, high rank as a practitioner, and unremitting efforts to elevate the standard of his profession, have combined to confer on humanity benefits of far reaching consequence.

"*Resolved*, That the sympathy of the members of the Board is respectfully tendered to the wife and family of the deceased, and that they attend the funeral in a body.

"*Resolved*, That the Secretary inform the wife and family of the late Dr. Vander Poel of the action of the Board."

On the motion of Mr. Borden, seconded by Mr. Webb, the foregoing resolutions were unanimously adopted.

J. R. Van Wormer,
Secretary.

CASTLE GARDEN.

NEW YORK, May 28, 1886.

MRS. S. O. VANDER POEL,
36 West 39th Street.

MADAM: I have the honor to transmit to you herewith a copy of resolutions adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Emigration, at a meeting held yesterday, in relation to the death of Dr. S. Oakley Vander Poel, late Chairman of the Board of Consulting Physicians and Surgeons to the State Emigration Hospital. Very respectfully,

H. J. JACKSON,
Secretary.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF EMIGRATION, HELD MAY 27TH, 1886.

Whereas: We have learned with profound regret of the death of Dr. S. Oakley Vander Poel, for the past few years Chairman of the Consulting Board of Physicians and Surgeons to the State Emigrant Hospital on Ward's Island.

Resolved, That the Board of Commissioners of Emigration of the State of New York tender its sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

Resolved, That this Board hereby expresses its sense of loss it has sustained by the death of Dr. Vander Poel, whose large experience in medical and public affairs fitted him especially for the duties of Consulting Physician to an Institution such as the State Emigrant Hospital. His advice was always wise and judicious; always sought for and appreciated by our medical staff.

HENRY A. HURLBURT,
President.

H. J. JACKSON,
Secretary.

End.

And I heard a voice from the heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

—Revelations, xiv. 13.

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